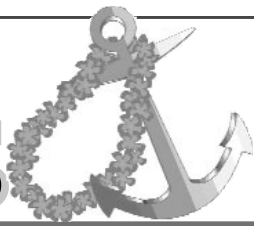


Hawaii Navy News



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Chief of Information Merit Award Winner

May 7, 1999

IN BRIEF

Any Day in the Navy photo shoot is just around the corner

The annual All Hands "Any Day in the Navy" photo shoot is scheduled for the week of May 23 - 29, 1999.

All Hands is looking for quality photographs that capture Sailors, Marines, Department of the Navy civilian employees, Naval Reservists and their family members at work and at play - performing those daily tasks that contribute to mission accomplishment and quality of life. Selected photos will be published in the October 1999 issue of the magazine.

Photos must be received at All Hands by July 5, 1999. Photos will not be returned. Submit processed and mounted color slides, or quality color prints, either 5x7 or 8x10. Digital images will also be accepted with a minimum pixel size of approximately 5x7 at 300 dpi. Digital images can be submitted on a zip disk with cut-lines and photo credits embedded. Zip disks will not be returned.

For more information, call the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 471-0281.

Million dollar golf tourney to benefit NMCRS fund drive

NAS Barbers Point is hosting a \$1 million hole in one golf tournament on May 28. Ten amateur qualifiers will have a chance at winning \$1 million. The tournament is open to all servicemembers, their families, guests and DoD employees. The qualification round begins May 14 at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds will benefit the NMCRS fund drive. For more information, call 682-1911.

INSIDE HINN



Barbers Point cottages offer servicemembers an inexpensive getaway. B-1

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USS Willamette decommissioned

☐ **Fleet oiler ends 17 years of service**

By JO2 Greg Cleghorne
HINN ASSISTANT EDITOR

The U.S. Navy said farewell to USS Willamette (AO 180) last Friday during her decommissioning ceremony at Pearl Harbor.

Her distinguished, 17-year career took her around the world where she performed underway replenishment (UNREP) and operations under all four (Second, Third, Sixth and Seventh) fleet commanders.

During her time in service, she performed more than 1,300 underway replenishments, transferred more than 300 million gallons of fuel and has operated with the navies of Australia, Canada, France, England, Japan, Pakistan, South Korea, Thailand and Venezuela. Her former blue jackets said they'd remember this ceremony and the ship for a long time.

"This decommissioning was more emotional than any other I've been to," said Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SW) Lino Dieron. "It's not what you look forward to but eventually, ships have to be decommissioned."

"This is my first time being part of a ship's decommissioning," said Ship's Storekeeper 1st Class Eladio Garcia, who was holding the ship's Ensign that flew over the ship during the decommissioning ceremony.

"I never thought that when I hauled up the Ensign this morning, that this would be the last time it would fly over the ship. This is a proud moment for me."



JO2 Greg Cleghorne photo

Standing in a light drizzle in front of their newly decommissioned ship, USS Willamette (AO 180), MM1 (SW) Lino Dieron (left) and SK1 Eladio Garcia (right) carefully fold USS Willamette's Ensign while SK1 (SW) Mackarl Manuel (center) - holding the ship's commissioning pennant - looks on. Cmdr. Howard L. Stone said, "It was John Paul Jones who said, '...People count more than guns in the rating of a ship.' When I look at the Sailors who manned this ship, it is stunningly clear. From my executive officer to Seaman Recruit Barlow, these people count more than guns."

"I've been on board for two years and it's been a great Navy experience," said Interior Communications Electrician 2nd Class (SW) Debra Edwards. "If we had a problem on board, we'd work together to fix it. This crew could really get things done. I hope I'll run into them again around the fleet."

"This was my first command," said IC3 Cindy Lambert. "Our chain of command made a great difference in my life. I realized that I wasn't alone. That's when the crew became like a

big family to me. I'll miss this ship and the crew."

"I took down the commissioning pennant," said Signalman 3rd Class Lamont Watkins. "I was thinking that this is the last time anyone will pull any halyards [line on which signal flags are attached] on Willamette's signal bridge. Right then I realized this ship was really going away."

"As a signalman, this ship helped me a lot in my rate," Watkins continued. "We would regularly signal ships

alongside for UNREPs. That helped me become very good at my rate. USS Willamette went out on top. We were the best in Pearl Harbor; we took first place in the surface line week competition."

"It was a sentimental closing day for Willamette," said Seaman Apprentice Heather Duffin, who sang the National Anthem during the ceremony. "It was sad, but a very special day for me. I felt a sense of pride be-

▼ See WILLAMETTE, A-4

Sailors get more free time

☐ **CNO announces second round of IDTC initiatives**

Navy Wire Service

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson announced the second round of fleetwide Inter-Deployment Training Cycle (IDTC) workload reductions April

19. IDTC reductions are designed to improve Sailors' quality of life between deployments.

Adm. Johnson approved changes to 13 programs and inspections recommended by the Fleet Review Board (FRB). The FRB is comprised of Atlantic and Pacific Fleet representatives and is designed to return additional discretionary time to commanding

officers and allow Sailors more time at home during the IDTC.

"Navy leadership is trying to take some of the workload off our Sailors," said Capt. Dana Roberts, Executive Secretary to the Fleet Review Board. "We're eliminating inspections and programs that are not value added."

▼ See IDTC, A-3



JOSN McClain Shewman photo

USS Buffalo (SSN 715) crewmembers prepare the boat for departure on their Western Pacific cruise. USS Buffalo is the Navy's 25th Los Angeles class submarine.

USS Buffalo departs for WESTPAC

By JOSN McClain Shewman

COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USS Buffalo (SSN 715), a Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine based out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, departed for its eighth Western Pacific deployment on April 30.

"USS Buffalo leaves Pearl Harbor fully ready for the multiple missions we'll accomplish," said Cmdr. "Buffalo" Bob Hennegan, commanding officer of USS Buffalo.

"I am particularly proud of the superb efforts of my crew during the deployment preparations. Go Buffalo!" said Hennegan.

The boat will be underway for six months where they will perform numerous tasks. The number of submarines in the Pacific has nearly been cut in half, so

the Buffalo crew is prepared for a busy schedule.

"Buffalo's crew stands ready to perform any mission, and are looking forward to representing the submarine force and our country during the ships liberty port calls," said Buffalo executive officer Lt. Cmdr. Rich Correll, from Mishiwa, Ind.

USS Buffalo is the Navy's 25th Los Angeles Class submarine and is capable of carrying the most advanced weapons available to the submarine force.

Buffalo was commissioned in November 1983. The boat has a complement of 130 men and is over 360 feet long. USS Buffalo was named after Buffalo, New York. USS Buffalo has shared the same name with two other decommissioned U.S. Navy vessels.

VP-9 moves to K-Bay



PH2 Chad McNeely photo

The first of nine P-3C Orion aircraft from Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) lands at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay last Friday. VP-9 is the first patrol squadron to move to K-Bay, in preparation for the closure of NAS Barbers Point on July 1. See related story on page A-5.